

Band of Susans used to be three Susans plus Robert and Ron, but now there's one Susan left and Anne and Mark where the Susans used to be. This is a guitar band -- three of 'em -- creating a dense wall of electric vibration over which glide the vocals of Robert Poss and Susan Stenger. Undoubtedly loud, this is no thrash band of ravers shouting incomprehensible rants over a surge of throbbing noise as their latest album *The Word and the Flesh* (Restless) reveals. The guitars are used to create mood and drama, and behind the instruments are melodies and often poetic lyrics such as "Wound like a clock crossing against the light loud as the sun churches burst into flames," from "Trouble Follows." Repetition is often used to make a point or create tension both in lyrics and music as on "Guitar Trio," which is one twangy chord ringing over and over broken only by the occasional drum roll.

Band of Susans with Monkey Spank: Sat., Dec. 7 at 10 p.m. at Khyber Pass Pub, 56 South 2nd St., cover varies, 440-9683.

--Peter Brown